

Hello council members, My name is Will Whaling, and I am a resident in Montgomery County. I am writing today because I believe that Bill 27-22 regarding the Inspector General's powers and duties should become law.

Bill 27-22 should be passed because it changes the outdated sections of the Montgomery County Code to comply with the new state law requirements, and improves the quality of our court system. This is a necessary and useful change because the Inspector General gains the ability to align budgeting requests to work plans, and gives the Inspector General the power to subpoena testimony that could be categorized as 'compelled', removing the danger of improper court case hearings.

Bill 27-22 also protects residents who speak out against the Inspector General from retaliation, and adjusts the votes needed to vote out the IG based on the increased numbers of council members. Both of these changes are necessary, because with the increased power of the Inspector General and possible abuse of their power, the ability to be able to speak out without fear of consequence is necessary. The adjusting of the votes from 6-7 sounds like it will make it harder for the Inspector General to be voted out of office, but when you consider that the number of council members is increasing from 9 to 11, it actually makes it no more difficult, if not easier. With these assurances included, Bill 27-22 will result in a positive transformation of the currently outdated Montgomery County Code in regards to the Inspector General's duties and power.